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action of the House Committee on Naval Affairs last year in reducing the number of battleships recommended from four to two; and we hereby earnestly protest against further increase of the navy this year.

We believe that our general government, especially in view of the successful operation of the Hague peace system, where it has been faithfully tried — mediation, commissions of inquiry and arbitration — is capable of managing the international relations of this country in such a manner as to make further extensive armaments on our part unnecessary.

Insisting upon respect for the law of nations as embodied in the international conventions made by the civilized powers at The Hague, we believe that the time has come for the United States government, which has always stood for peaceful and legal settlements of international questions, to be consistent with its traditions. We urge the government to make a serious attempt to lead the nations in limitation and reduction of armaments, in order that as soon as possible the vast sums of money now taken for their construction from the people may become available for peaceful, civic uses.

We also express our approval of all reasonable measures that may be adopted by our Department of State for the constitution of the new International Court of Justice recommended by the second Hague Conference, confident that its establishment will complete the legal system of nations by giving them a Court that from the nature of its structure will be accessible at all times, permanent, judicial and equitable.

Japan Seeks Peace.

Announcement is made in newspaper despatches from Tokyo that Japan has adopted a new diplomatic policy. The Japanese are admitted to have become conceited in consequence of their victories in the Russo-Japanese War, but the evil tendency of their pride has been seen in season by their leaders, who have been endeavoring to direct the popular mind from ambition for conquest to the peaceful development of Japan's commercial resources. The new diplomacy has been described by Masuji Miyaka, who, it will be remembered, is traveling about this country giving a lecture that is based in part upon a resolution adopted by the school children of Tokyo, who have pledged themselves never to draw a sword against the school children of the United States. Previously to the wars of Japan with China and Russia, the Japanese children were taught that they would some day have to fight these powers and were therefore prepared for war by a course of education calculated to stimulate their military spirit. This method is to be abandoned for the higher conception of friendship and peace with other nations, and particularly with us. Japanese statesmen are behind this idea. They want no more war. That was made plain by the commercial delegation that lately visited the United States. But they have gone farther and, consistently with their pro-

fessions and with good economy, have reduced appropriations for military and naval purposes. It is expected that the new Japanese Ambassador, Baron Uchida, who has lately come to this country, will, like his predecessor, Baron Takahira, use his best efforts to promote the friendly relations between our two countries that have recently been furthered by unofficial representatives of Japan. It is hoped also that our Department of State will maintain the peaceful relations established with the Far East by Secretaries Hay and Root. The fact that Baron Uchida has been in the United States before as an attaché to the Japanese delegation, and that he is glad to be with us again, encourages belief in the certainty of the perpetuation of the historic friendship of the two nations. Japan will not seek peace with us in vain.

Editorial Note.

The *Manchester Guardian*, in an editorial on the one hundredth anniversary of Gladstone's Statesmanship. Gladstone's birth (December 29), had the following fine appreciation of the great statesman's international spirit:

"To him the line of state boundaries formed no limit beyond which the writ of conscience ceased to run. He held national duties to be as sacred as personal duties, and judged national honor by the same standard as personal honor. From the debate on the Opium War in 1840 to the last speech on behalf of the dying Armenians in 1896, Gladstone maintained this ideal in the face of Europe. He could not always carry it through against his own colleagues in government. No man at the head of affairs can have his way in all things; but he closed his public career by resigning office rather than associate himself with an increase of armaments which he judged unnecessary and therefore injurious to the cause with which his name is indelibly associated.

"Owing to the part which I was drawn to take, first in Italy, then as to Greece, then on the Eastern Question, I have come to be considered not only an English but a European statesman. My name stands in Europe as a symbol of the policy of peace, moderation and non-aggression. What would be said of my active participation in a policy that will be taken as plunging Europe into the whirlpool of militarism?"

"His retirement let loose the dogs of militarism, and the close of the nineteenth century witnessed the apparent triumph of the Bismarckian idea. Yet never was that idea more profoundly discredited. If the nations still hold on to the policy of force, it is not because they do not wish to let go, but because they dare not. Yet every day the consciousness of the absurdity of the position and the desperate efforts that even now are being made among ourselves to exploit national timidity in the interests of domestic reaction will serve to show the true nature of international antipathies and the flimsy psychological basis on which they rest. The twentieth century is ready for the teaching of a second Gladstone, who not merely by precept but by the conduct of affairs will show the nations that domestic progress depends on international

harmony. When that lesson is learned, Englishmen will realize that their country won truer renown when she voluntarily gave up the Ionian Islands to Greece and restored its freedom to the Transvaal on the morrow of a defeat than when she overcame Napoleon or when she acquired the empire of the East. They will look back to these achievements in the conquest of false pride as pioneer acts in the growth of a new civilization, and will recognize in Gladstone the founder and foremost name in the statesmanship of humanity."

News from the Field.

The British National Peace Council, a committee made up of representatives of all the British peace organizations, has appointed Carl Heath its secretary in place of H. S. Perris, resigned. Mr. Heath is secretary of the Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, and is deeply interested in all humanitarian movements.

It is announced that the British National Peace Congress this year will be held at Leicester the 14th to the 16th of June. The mayor of the city is chairman of the Committee on Organization, and is warmly supported by persons of all religious faiths and political connections.

Prof. Samuel T. Dutton of the Teachers' College of Columbia University, General Secretary of the Peace Society of the City of New York, has returned " hale and hearty " from Europe, where he has spent the last six months in travel and in giving courses of lectures before some of the universities. He recently visited and lectured before the American College for Girls at Constantinople, of which he is a trustee.

Miss Anna B. Eckstein has been holding meetings in Switzerland the past few weeks in the interests of the World-Petition. She has met with a very warm reception in all the cities where she has spoken. Just before leaving for Austria-Hungary, where she is now laboring, she received a very warm testimonial from the Central Committee of the Swiss Peace Union. Dr. Bucher-Heller, chairman, wrote her as follows: "Before you leave Switzerland I once more, in the name of the Central Committee, express to you their thanks for the great services which you have rendered to us and the peace movement in Switzerland by your splendid addresses. I am convinced that all sections in which you have spoken are very, very thankful to you."

Following a vote of the Mohonk Arbitration Conference of May last, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the Conference, has announced the following ten gentlemen to constitute a committee to consider plans for a National Council on Arbitration and Peace, whose purpose is to try to bring into more harmonious coöperation the different peace and arbitration organizations, so as to save duplication and overlapping, and to secure greater unity and efficiency: Elihu Root, Senator from New York; Andrew Carnegie, honorary president of the New York Peace Society; Albert K. Smiley, organizer of the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration; Benjamin F. Trueblood of Boston, secretary of the American Peace Society; E. D. Warfield of Easton, Penn., president of Lafayette College; Lyman Abbott of New York, editor of *The Outlook*; Edwin

D. Mead of Boston; George W. Kirchwey, Dean of the Law School of Columbia University; James Brown Scott, solicitor of the Department of State; and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University.

The Interparliamentary Union Bureau at Brussels has addressed to the governments of all countries a proposition to re-adopt and extend to dirigibles and aeroplanes the provision of the first Hague Peace Conference forbidding the dropping of explosives from balloons during war. This expired by limitation after five years.

Brevities.

. . . At the request of the United States government, the date for the hearing at The Hague of the case in regard to the rights of United States fishermen in Newfoundland and Canadian waters, in the north Atlantic, has been postponed for six weeks from the original date set, April 14. The postponement was sought in order to give our government further time to prepare its case.

. . . At the meeting of the Canadian Club of Boston at the Parker House January 21, the speakers from Canada, Mr. F. W. Hibbard of Montreal, crown prosecutor for that district, and the Hon. Robert E. Finn, member of the Nova Scotia parliament, and other speakers, made a strong plea for better trade relations and general friendly coöperation between Canada and the United States. One of the speakers from our country went so far as to prophesy political union of the two countries. Mr. Finn regretted that this country had not seen fit to be more neighborly with the Dominion. Canada was friendly to the United States and ready to be more so, he said.

. . . Germany's naval budget for this year calls for the expenditure of \$108,500,000, an increase of \$7,000,000 over last year. The larger part of this, over \$60,000,000, is for battleship construction.

. . . During the recent election campaign in Great Britain, the Anglo-German Friendship Committee issued a strong protest against the scare articles on "Germany and England" which appeared in the papers and were exploited by politicians for the purpose of vote-getting. Lord Avebury declared in the protest that though rivals each of the two countries was "one of the best customers of the other, and to ruin a good customer and to destroy so great a commerce was an act of folly that he did not believe either country was likely to fall into." "A war between Germany and England would be disastrous to both, and those who endeavor to make mischief between the two countries incur in our judgment a terrible responsibility. For ourselves, however, we feel confident that the common sense, the good feelings, and the immense interests we have in common will prevent so fearful a catastrophe."

The New Chicago Peace Society.

As an outcome of the great National Peace Congress held in Chicago last May, a Branch of the American Peace Society has been organized in Chicago with a strong personal and financial backing.

About a dozen years ago a Chicago Peace Society was